

**REMARKS**

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the application and for the indication of allowable subject matter. The Applicant has made numerous amendments to address the Examiner's concerns expressed in the Office Action. Each of the Examiner's concerns is discussed below:

The Examiner has objected to the drawings for not showing the subject matter in claims 4 and 17. In lieu of making changes to the drawings, Applicant has opted to amend claims 4 and 17 to remove the limitations which were not shown in the Figures.

Similarly, the Examiner's objection to the specification for failing to provide support for claim 4 has been obviated by the amendment to claim 4.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-15 for not being enabling because of not claiming both shoes. The claims have been amended to include limitations to both shoes as the Examiner has suggested.

The Examiner has rejected all of the claims, except for allowable claims 19, 21 and 22 based upon the DiGiulio reference.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to further limit the invention to include a shoe with a sole which is a single piece of molded material which has a recess therein for mating with a quick release mechanism. This claim, as amended, is

different from the DiGiulio reference in that the DiGiulio reference teaches using any type of shoe and attaching on the bottom of the shoe, via adhesive, screws, fasteners, etc. additional structure. This additional structure on the bottom of an ordinary shoe results in a shoe bottom which would make it more difficult to stand or walk. The difference made by the present invention makes a big difference in that the structure of mating with a quick release mechanism is a recess in the shoe sole which provides advantages of facilitating standing and walking over the augmented shoes as taught by DiGiulio.

Independent claim 7 has been amended to add a removable inner foot and heel cradling insole insert. This foot and heel cradling insert provides significant benefits to the present invention which are not taught or even suggested by the Perrault reference, which teaches an insole which does not fully support the heel. Claim 7, as amended, now includes the limitation to full heel support. Perrault is not designed for full heel support, and in fact, states that it only partially engages the heel. See Column 5, lines 37-44 of Perrault:

explained hereinabove. The orthosis rear portion 14 engages the foot heel portion H, with partial engagement of the heel inside notch 22 in register with the tuberosity T of the calcaneum C (FIG. 7). The anterior portion C of the calcaneum overlies orthosis 10 frontwardly relative to notch 22. Flanges 24, 26 complementarily engage the heel portion H of the foot so as to partly surround heel H so as to form a cup-like seat for heel H.

The very short in height cup-like seat is provided in Perrault for a completely different purpose than the tall full heel supporting structure of the present invention.

In the present invention, the heel and ankle support section is clearly provided to help hold the ankle and foot in a position relative to the connecting bar and thereby to the other foot to achieve the therapeutic advantage of the Ponseti method. In Perrault, the cup is designed merely to hold the insole in place relative to the foot and shoe. See end of the abstract where it states:

user's foot. The combination of the independently deformable arms forming a cup-like seat with the front edge concavities allow stabilization and positional self-adjustment of the orthosis inside the footwear, to compensate accidental positional shifts of the orthosis in the footwear.

The *full heel support* is very important to the present invention and not existent or important at all to the Perrault reference. The low rise heel cup in Perrault teaches that such a cup is sufficient to hold the insole in place and does not teach or even suggest that it is desirable to use an insert to provide full heel support for the purpose of firmly holding the full heel and ankle in a supported position relative to another foot.

Independent claim 20 includes a limitation like in claim 1 to a recess structure in a single piece of molded material which makes up the sole.

None of the other cited references are even suggested by the Examiner to teach the shortcomings of DiGiulio which have been pointed out above. They are cited to teach other features of the claims which are admittedly not taught by DiGiulio.

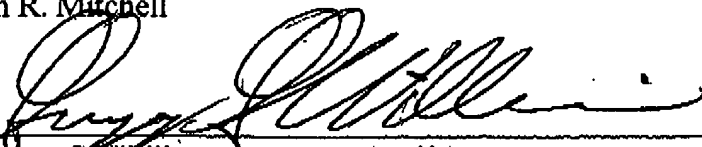
The previously presented and allowable claims 19 and 21 have been rewritten to include all of the limitations of their original independent base claims and any intervening claims.

Having addressed all of the Examiner's concerns about the claims, the Applicant feels that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of the same would be much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

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